



Tennessee Farm Facts

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In Cooperation with Tennessee Department of Agriculture

March Intentions Grain Stocks U.S. Hog Inventory Livestock Slaughter
Dairy Products Chicken & Eggs Prices Received Vegetables

April 9, 2008

Soybeans, Wheat Skyrocket; Cotton, Corn Drop Sharply

Tennessee farmers plan to make decisive shifts in crop acreages during 2008, according to a March 1 survey of producers conducted by the Tennessee Field Office of USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service. Similar to last year's 320,000 acre upward spike in corn, soybean acreage is projected to rise 410,000 acres and, if realized, the largest one year increase since records began in 1924. Also noteworthy is the projected increase of winter wheat acreage, which would mark the highest level since 1984. The large shifts are being prompted by tremendous market prices for soybeans and wheat, combined with high input costs for other crops. This shift in acreage would result in sizable decreases in land devoted to cotton and corn for 2008. The March 1 survey showed the following results: **corn** acreage, down 25 percent from last year to 650,000 acres; **soybeans**, up 39 percent to 1,450,000 acres, the highest acreage since 1986; **cotton** intentions, at 310,000 acres, down 40 percent from last year; **winter wheat** seedings, at 620,000 acres, up 48 percent from the previous year; and **hay** acreage for harvest, up slightly to 1.75 million acres. State Director Debra Kenerson commented that, "We are seeing the State's farmers adjust crop acreage to take advantage of changing markets. However, these results reflect producers' intentions as of March 1 and could change, as weather conditions and other factors dictate."

United States: Corn growers intend to plant 86.0 million acres of corn for all purposes in 2008, down 8 percent from last year when corn planted area was the highest since 1944. Soybean producers intend to plant 74.8 million acres in 2008, up 18 percent from last year, but 1 percent below the record high acreage in 2006. All wheat planted area is estimated at 63.8 million acres, up 6 percent from 2007. All cotton plantings for 2008 are expected to total 9.39 million acres, 13 percent below last year.

Planted Acreage, 2006-2007 and Intended 2008, Tennessee and United States

Crop	2006	2007	2008 ¹	2008/2007	2006	2007	2008 ¹	2008/2007
Tennessee					United States			
	1,000 Acres			Percent	1,000 Acres			Percent
Corn	550	870	650	75	78,327	93,600	86,014	92
Sorghum	14	22	25	114	6,522	7,718	7,415	96
Winter Wheat	280	420	620	148	40,575	44,987	46,840	104
Soybeans	1,160	1,040	1,450	139	75,522	63,631	74,793	118
Cotton, all	700	515	310	60	15,274.0	10,830.3	9,389.6	87
Tobacco, all ²	19.80	19.98	19.00	95	339.00	356.00	350.92	99
Dark fired-cured	5.3	6.2	7.0	113	11.85	14.60	17.40	119
Burley	14.0	13.0	11.0	85	103.70	106.30	97.20	91
Dark air-cured	0.50	0.78	1.0	128	4.30	4.98	7.30	147
Hay ²	1,830	1,725	1,750	101	60,927	61,625	60,583	98

¹ Intended plantings for 2008. ² Acres harvested.

Grain Stocks: Tennessee and U.S., March 1, 2007-2008 with Comparisons

	Tennessee			United States		
	Mar 1, 2007	Dec 1, 2007	Mar 1, 2008	Mar 1, 2007	Dec 1, 2007	Mar 1, 2008
1,000 Bushels						
On-Farm Stocks ¹						
Corn				3,330,000	6,530,000	3,780,000
Wheat				192,450	289,540	91,990
Soybeans				910,000	1,100,000	593,000
Grain Sorghum				17,100	51,400	26,100
Oats				33,900	43,100	31,000
Off-Farm Stocks ²						
Corn	12,058	24,587	17,349	2,738,250	3,748,085	3,078,995
Wheat	5,902	8,388	5,660	664,278	842,398	617,650
Soybeans	3,595		1,417	876,887	1,231,860	835,102
Grain Sorghum	³	³	³	125,122	239,850	159,471
Oats	68	50	83	37,158	51,331	48,038
Total Stocks ¹						
Corn				6,068,250	10,278,085	6,858,895
Wheat				856,728	1,131,938	709,640
Soybeans				1,786,887	2,331,860	1,428,102
Grain Sorghum				142,222	291,250	185,571
Oats				71,058	94,431	79,038

¹ Estimates for Tennessee on-farm stocks are not published. ² Includes stocks at mills, elevators, warehouses, terminals, and processors. ³ Not published to avoid disclosures of individual operations.

U.S. Hog Inventory Up 7 Percent

U.S. inventory of all hogs and pigs on March 1, 2008 was 65.9 million head. This was up 7 percent from March 1, 2007, but down 2 percent from December 1, 2007. Breeding inventory, at 6.14 million head, was up less than 1 percent from last year, but down slightly from the previous quarter. Market hog inventory, at 59.8 million head, was up 7 percent from last year, but down 2 percent from last quarter. The December 2007-February 2008 pig crop, at 28.1 million head, was up 6 percent from 2007 and up 9 percent from 2006. Sows farrowing during this period totaled 3.05 million head, up 5 percent from 2007 and up 7 percent from 2006. The sows farrowed during this quarter represented 50 percent of the breeding herd. The average pigs saved per litter was 9.21 for the December 2007-February 2008 period, compared to 9.09 last year.

Livestock Slaughter: Commercial red meat production for the United States totaled 3.97 billion pounds in February, up 10 percent from the 3.62 billion pounds produced in February 2007. Cattle slaughter totaled 2.64 million head, up 3 percent from February 2007. The average live weight was up 11 pounds from the previous year, at 1,285 pounds. Calf slaughter totaled 69,100 head, up 4 percent from February 2007. The average live weight was down 36 pounds from last year, at 272 pounds. Hog kill totaled 9.38 million head, up 16 percent from February 2007. The average live weight was up 2 pounds from the previous year, at 271 pounds. Sheep slaughter totaled 211,400 head, 3 percent above last year. The average live weight was 143 pounds, up 3 pounds from February a year ago.

Livestock Slaughter¹: Tennessee & United States, March 2007 and 2008

Species	Number Slaughtered		Total Live Weight		Average Live Weight	
	2007	2008	2007	2008	2007	2008
1,000 Head			1,000 Pounds		Pounds	
Tennessee						
Cattle	1.8	2.3	1,640	2,033	929	920
Calves	0.1	0.1	48	31	455	397
Hogs	47.4	48.9	22,407	23,268	473	476
Sheep & lambs	0.9	0.9	71	73	79	78
United States						
Cattle	2,561.2	2,643.2	3,249,960	3,383,319	1,274	1,285
Calves	66.7	69.1	20,375	18,577	308	272
Hogs	8,117.3	9,378.1	2,183,764	2,534,773	269	271
Sheep & lambs	204.7	211.4	28,708	30,111	140	143

¹ Includes slaughter under Federal inspection and other commercial slaughter (excludes farm slaughter).

U.S. Dairy Products

February 2008 Highlights: Total cheese output (excluding cottage cheese) was 784 million pounds, 4.8 percent above February 2007 but 3.5 percent below January 2008. Italian type cheese production totaled 335 million pounds, 4.8 percent above February 2007 but 4.8 percent below January 2008. American type cheese production totaled 319 million pounds, 4.5 percent above February 2007 but 4.4 percent below January 2008. Butter production was 147 million pounds, 9.4 percent above February 2007 but 13.1 percent below January 2008.

Dry Milk Powders: (comparisons with February 2007) Nonfat dry milk, human --- 120 million pounds, up 21.9 percent. Skim milk powders --- 33.8 million pounds, up 206.4 percent. **Whey products:** (comparisons with February 2007) Dry whey, total -- 88.0 million pounds, down 2.5 percent. Lactose, human and animal --- 60.4 million pounds, up 1.2 percent. Whey protein concentrate, total --- 33.2 million pounds, up 12.8 percent. **Frozen products:** (comparisons with February 2007) Ice cream, Regular (hard) --- 66.0 million gallons, up 0.7 percent. Ice cream, Lowfat (total) --- 28.0 million gallons, down 0.4 percent. Sherbet (hard) --- 4.18 million gallons, up 8.6 percent. Frozen Yogurt (total) --- 4.05 million gallons, down 2.5 percent.

Chicken & Eggs: U.S. egg production totaled 7.13 billion during February 2008, up 3 percent from last year. Production included 6.05 billion table eggs, and 1.07 billion hatching eggs, of which 1.01 billion were broiler-type and 64 million were egg-type. The total number of layers during February 2008 averaged 343 million, down 2 percent from last year. February egg production per 100 layers was 2,075 eggs, up 4 percent from February 2007.

Layers and Eggs: Layers on Hand and Eggs Produced by Selected States and United States, During February 2007 and 2008

Selected States	Table Egg Layers in Flocks 30,000 or more		All Layers ¹		Eggs per 100 for All Layers ¹	
	2007	2008	2007	2008	2007	2008
	Thousands				Number	
Alabama	1,247	1,332	9,225	9,535	1,724	1,804
Arkansas	4,582	4,042	14,561	14,536	1,738	1,775
Georgia	10,019	9,513	19,755	19,442	1,883	1,944
North Carolina	4,071	4,830	11,902	12,757	1,815	1,944
All Other States ²	263,844	257,763	293,400	287,096	2,028	2,114
United States	283,763	277,480	348,843	343,366	1,993	2,075

¹ Includes all layers and eggs produced in both table egg and hatching egg flocks regardless of size. ² Tennessee is included in all other states total.

Prices Received by Farmers: Tennessee & U.S., March 2008 with Comparisons

Commodity	Unit	Tennessee			United States		
		March 2007	February ¹ 2008	March ² 2008	March 2007	February ¹ 2008	March ² 2008

Dollars Per Unit

Field Crops

Corn	bu.	3.80	4.82	5.10	3.43	4.53	4.83
Cotton Lint	lb.	.463	.579	.589 ³	.464	.619	.614 ³
Sorghum	cwt.	⁴	⁴	n/a	6.48	8.35	8.72
Soybeans	bu.	7.11	13.10	12.90	6.95	11.70	11.90
Winter Wheat	bu.	⁴	9.54	n/a	4.67	8.97	11.00

Livestock

All Beef Cattle	cwt.	75.20	77.20	76.20	91.60	89.00	88.70
Steers & Heifers	cwt.	96.00	94.00	93.00	97.70	94.20	93.80
Cows	cwt.	44.00	52.00	51.00	47.20	51.40	52.20
Calves	cwt.	113.00	110.00	108.00	122.00	120.00	120.00

¹ Entire month. ² Mid-month. ³ Based on purchases first half of month. ⁴ Price not published to avoid disclosure of individual firms. n/a = not available.

Spring Season Fresh Market Vegetables Down 1 Percent
Processed Vegetable Contracted Acreage Down 2 Percent
Onion Acreage Down 6 Percent

The prospective area for harvest of 11 selected fresh market vegetables during the spring quarter is forecast at 203,300 acres, down 1 percent from last year. Acreage declines for snap beans, carrots, cauliflower, head lettuce, bell peppers, and tomatoes more than offset acreage increases for broccoli, cabbage, celery, and sweet corn. Cucumber area remains unchanged. Melon acreage for spring harvest is forecast at 72,450, down 2 percent from last year. Watermelon acreage is down 1 percent from 2007 while cantaloupe acreage declined 4 percent from a year ago. Honeydew melon acreage remains unchanged from 2007. Asparagus area for spring harvest is forecast at 34,100 acres, down 11 percent from last year. Strawberry area for harvest is forecast at 46,500 acres, up 2 percent from a year ago.

Processors expect to contract 1.18 million acres of the 5 major processed vegetable crops in the U.S. this year, down 2 percent from last year. Contracted acreage declines are forecast for snap beans and tomatoes, while sweet corn, cucumbers for pickles, and green peas show increases. Freezing firms expect to contract 401,350 acres, down 2 percent from last year. Acreage for snap beans is down 12 percent while green pea acreage is up 2 percent from last year. Acreage for sweet corn is virtually unchanged. Canneries contracted for 781,610 acres, down 2 percent from 2007. Acreage declined for snap beans, green peas, and tomatoes, down 9 percent, 1 percent, and 3 percent, respectively. Acreage increased for sweet corn and cucumbers for pickles, up 3 percent and 4 percent, respectively.

Total planted onion area for all seasons in 2008 is forecast at 155,750 acres, down 6 percent from last year. Spring onions are expected to be harvested from 29,400 acres in 2008, down 5 percent from 2007. Georgia and Texas combined production is forecast at 6.22 million cwt, 2 percent below last year. Summer non-storage onion planted area, at 20,100 acres, is down 6 percent from a year ago. Total summer onion area, at 124,150 acres, is down 6 percent from the previous year.